Issues of pattas on forest land in Bihar and Orissa

*126. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to deistribute pattas to the farmers who had occupied forest land in Bihar and Orissa; and

(b) if so, how many hectares of land would be turned into agricultural land; and

(c) the condition on which this sanction has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rate of growth of Agricultural output

*127. SHRI MD. SALIM: will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of agricultural output, particularly foodgrains, during the period 1990-95;

(b) whether Government are aware that in 1995-96 foodgrains output fell by six million tonnes and grain procurement dropped by seven million tonnes; and

(c) if so, whether the fall in foodgrains output signifies a down trend in agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The Annual compound growth rates of outputs of foodgrains and all crops during the period 1990-91 to 1995-96 were observed to be 1.80 and 2.56 percent respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fall in foodgrains output during 1995-96 does not signify a down trend in agricultural production as positive annual growth rates of 1.80 per cent in production of foodgrains and 3.70 per cent in the production of non-foodgrains have been observed during the period 1990-91 and 1995-96.

Response to NET/SET

*128. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have passed the National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Eligibility Test (SET) examinations during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the response of the teachers and students to these tests;

(c) whether Government/UGC have deviated several times from the original schemes of NET/SET and if so, in what manner; and

(d) the steps being taken to make this scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (d) University Grants Comission (UGC) conducts National Education Test (NET) to award Junior Research Fellowships (JRFs) as also to certify the eligibility of candidates for being furher considered for appointment as Lecturers. According to the information furnished by UGC, 8353 candidates have passed the NET during the last three years. A statement indicating the state-wise break-up of successful candidates is attached at statement-I. (*See* below).

UGC has also recently allowed State Governments to conduct eligibility tests (SLETs) for determining their eligibility for appointment as Lecturers. Eight States have so far introduced these tests duly approved by UGC. A statement showing the number of candidates who hae qualified the SLET so far is attached at statement-II. (*See* below).

No formal assessment of responses of teachers and students to these tests has been caried out so far.

Initially, UGC had exempted candidates awarded Ph.D. degree upto December, 1992 or M.Phil. degree upto December, 1990 from taking these tests. At present, the candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis or passed M.Phil examination by 31st December, 1993 are eligible for being considered for appointment as Lecturers without taking these tests.